

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of this application is requested.

The claims pending for consideration are claims 1, 2, 6, 7-18 and 22-24.

The claims have been amended to emphasize patentable aspects of the invention, as apparently recognized by the Examiner, and to otherwise improve the form and substance of the applicants' claims.

The Examiner will note that applicants' main claim (claim 1) has been amended to include the features of now canceled claims 3, 4 and 5.

Non-elected claims 19 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice to presentation in a continuing application.

The specification has been amended to include a brief description of the drawings. Basis for the amendment is found at page 14, lines 28 and 29; and page 15, lines 25 and 26. The last-mentioned sections of the applicants' specification have been deleted to avoid redundancy.

The dependent claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to obviate the objections thereto as set out in ¶ 8, page 3 of the action.

The claims have also been amended in response to the Examiner's Section 112, 2nd ¶ rejection thereof as set out in ¶s 9-16. The claims, as amended, are thought to be free from the objections noted by the Examiner. Support for the amendment of claim 2 is found at page 6, lines 16-17; page 9, lines 8-15 and page 13, lines 29 to page 14, line 8.

The 400°C recited in claim 3 has been changed to 40°C in the addition of the feature of claim 1. This corrects a typing error. See claim 3 as initially filed. The changes in claims 7, 12, 14, 15 and 16 and the manner in which they deal with the Examiner's objections are thought to be self-explanatory. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration of the Section 112, 2nd ¶ rejection and withdrawal thereof are requested.

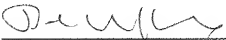
Claims 17 and 18 have been amended to refer to "compound" instead of "salt" as sodium hydroxide is not, technically speaking, a salt but a base.

The Examiner is requested to reconsider the Section 103(a) rejections of claims 1-4, 14, 15, 16 and 22 as set out in ¶s 16, 17 and 18 of the action. While the applicants do not agree with the Examiner's rejections, it is noted that applicants' main claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 5. Claim 5 was not included in the Examiner's Section 103(a)

rejections. The Examiner has, therefore, recognized patentability of claim 5 (now part of claim 1) over the art of record. Furthermore, since all of the other claims in case depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1, it is believed that all of the claims distinguish patentably from the Examiner's references. Clearly, Zhuang et al. and Nagumo et al. considered singly or together, do not show or suggest the applicants' invention, particularly as defined in main claim 1. The Examiner's other references do not fill in the deficiencies of the applicants' primary references. It is accordingly submitted that all of the applicants' claims define subject matter which is new, unobvious and patentable. An action to that affect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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